



Deb Fischer

United States Senator *for* Nebraska



Working For You



Introduction

The past year has certainly been a difficult one. But despite unprecedented challenges of a global pandemic, Nebraskans have responded like we always do, and come together in support of each other's families, communities, and businesses. Legislatively, the last year has been a productive one with important victories for the Heartland, including relief as our state battles this disease. Looking ahead, I will continue working to ensure that the Senate retains its critical oversight role and work in a bipartisan manner to deliver results for the people of Nebraska.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone to continue doing your part to stop the spread of COVID. Wear a mask, social distance, and wash your hands. We are making great progress combatting this pandemic, but it isn't over yet.

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COVID Relief

I supported the CARES Act, which delivered billions of dollars in economic aid to the state of Nebraska, helping businesses and individuals work toward recovery. Here is a list of resources and federally enacted policies to help Americans through this unprecedented global crisis:



- Increased flexibility in how states and municipalities can use their funding following a letter from Senator Fischer and 15 of her Senate colleagues
- Worked to get 34 publicly-owned hospitals in rural Nebraska included in the Paycheck Protection Program
- The Paycheck Protection Program helped save over 327,000 Nebraska jobs, and was utilized by over 42,000 businesses
 - › The program paid out over \$3.4 billion to Nebraska businesses
 - › A bipartisan Fischer bill enacted into law ensures manufacturers can produce additional respirator masks for frontline workers to protect themselves from COVID
 - › \$200 million in emergency funding to health care providers and internet-enabled telehealth services
- Senator Fischer also introduced the Keep Telehealth Options Act, providing critical data to study ways to expand telehealth services even after the pandemic ends
- \$81.5 million for the purchase of educational technology and expanded remote learning
- \$40 million in flexible funding for broadband buildout
- More than \$91 million in transportation funding, including \$27 million for rural transit and \$65 million for Nebraska's airports
- Relief for farmers and producers including emergency payments to cattle producers, funding for livestock losses, and biofuel industry relief
- Called on USDA to strengthen "last mile delivery", supporting vulnerable communities and those who lack access to reliable transportation with the food they need during this pandemic

Certainty for Ag Producers

- Secured \$717 million in **CFAP payments** to Nebraska ag producers, including \$391 million for cattle producers and \$235 million for corn
- Called on USDA and the Department of Justice to **investigate potential price fixing** in cattle markets
- Introduced the **Cattle Market Transparency Act of 2020**, which would restore accountability to the cattle industry by:
 - › Establishing regional minimum mandatory thresholds of negotiated cash trades
 - › Requiring USDA to create and maintain a library of marketing contracts between producers and packers
 - › Making clear that all information must be reported in a timely manner that ensures confidentiality
 - › Mandating packers report the number of cattle scheduled to be delivered for slaughter for the next 14 days, as is required in the pork industry
- Introduced the **HAULS Act** to allow for the safe transport of ag and livestock products by cutting back on excessive regulations
- Pushed Congress to immediately replenish farm payments through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)
- Successfully fought to uphold the 10th Circuit Decision on small refinery exemptions and for “gap year” exemptions to be denied, protecting Nebraska’s ethanol producers
- Unlocked a \$2.3 million funding opportunity for the repair of **Gering-Ft. Laramie Canal** from the Bureau of Reclamation

Trade Victories

- The U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement, securing our biggest trading markets
- A trade deal with China, including provisions to purchase billions in U.S. agricultural products
- An agreement with Taiwan to purchase U.S. beef and pork

Keeping Nebraskans Connected

- Cosponsored the **Broadband DATA Act**, which was signed into law in March.
 - › Bill ensures that federal regulators have the most accurate, detailed information of where internet service truly exists and where gaps can be filled
- Introduced and passed the bipartisan, bicameral **DIGIT Act** through the Senate this year
 - › Promotes Internet of Things growth to advance America’s network capabilities for smart traffic and transit technologies, public safety, health care, precision agriculture, and environmental monitoring
- Introduced the **AIR Act**, providing Nebraska’s community airports with greater certainty during the COVID-19 pandemic as they consider future infrastructure projects
- Made **airports more accessible for traveling new mothers** by passing bipartisan legislation through the Senate ensuring they provide accessible lactation rooms

Wins for Our Metro Areas

Omaha and Lincoln are our state's population and commercial hubs. Over the past year, we worked hard to deliver relief and recovery to the schools, businesses, and communities in our cities:

- Secured \$821 million of Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program funding from the Small Business Administration to benefit our state's small businesses
- Enabled the start of construction on the Lincoln South Beltway with a \$25 million federal grant to make the project possible
- Delivered \$400 million in congressional funding to rebuild our state's strategic military assets—Camp Ashland and Offutt Air Force Base
- Cancelled expected furloughs of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that would have harmed over 1,300 employees at the USCIS Service Center in Lincoln
- Introduced bipartisan legislation to create a user-friendly dashboard to assist communities applying for mental health grants
- Served as a liaison between the **University of Nebraska Omaha** and the Department of Homeland Security to secure a 10-year, \$36 million grant to assist in **global counterterrorism efforts**



Military/Veterans

Nebraska is proudly home to over 100,000 veterans as well as key military installations. This year, we delivered important resources to our veterans, from health care to child care to housing. We also passed a defense authorization bill that funded critical Nebraska military assets:

- Introduced the Veterans Assistance Helpline Act, bipartisan legislation creating a helpline to assist veterans with VA services
- As chairman of the Senate Armed Services subcommittee on Strategic Forces, voted to advance the **2021 defense authorization bill** which included multiple amendments authored by Senator Fischer

The legislation:

- › Authorizes a three percent pay raise for all members of the uniformed service, in addition to over 30 types of bonuses and special pays
- › Prioritizes support for military families, including spouse employment opportunities and child care
- › Ensures previous reforms to the military privatized housing program and to the military health system are implemented to rigorous standards
- › Includes key provisions for Nebraska pertaining to Offutt Air Force Base and the 55th Wing



Judges

The Senate has confirmed 222 federal district and circuit judges nominated by President Trump to lifetime appointments. This includes 53 judges for the **United States courts of appeals**, 164 judges for the **United States district courts**, and two judges for the **United States Court of International Trade**, and three **Supreme Court** Justices.



This year, the Senate confirmed Amy Coney Barrett to be the newest Associate Justice on the Supreme Court.

How Can My Office Help You?

My staff is always available to listen to your concerns and help Nebraskans navigate issues they are having with federal agencies. When COVID-19 shut down travel my office was able to help bring constituents who were overseas back home. Also this year, we have been able to help numerous Nebraskans with claims in Veteran Affairs and Social Security. These are just a few examples of the types of problems we can help Nebraskans work through. If you are having a problem with any federal agency, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

In a typical year, my staff travels to every county to hold Local Office Hours. These events are convenient opportunities for Nebraskans to meet with members of my staff one-on-one. Due to COVID-19, we have adapted these meetings to a virtual format. In 2020, my staff held virtual local office hours in every Nebraska county and we will continue to do so in 2021. Information about the time, date, and location of these events will be in your local paper and publicized on my Twitter and Facebook pages. You can also contact my office any time for assistance.



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Working For You

Grants to NE

Date	Recipient	Details	Source of Funding	Amount	Location/Area
3/25/20	Community Health Centers (CHCs)	FY 2020 Coronavirus Supplemental Funding	Health Resources and Services Admin.	\$522,777	COVID-19
4/7/20	Community Health Centers (CHCs)	Health Center CARES Act Funding	Health Resources and Services Admin.	\$6,437,900	COVID-19
5/7/20	Community Health Centers (CHCs)	FY 2020 Expanding Capacity for Coronavirus Testing	Health Resources and Services Admin.	\$2,420,398	COVID-19
5/4/20	Community Health Centers (CHCs)	Support operating, capital, and other COVID expenses	Department of Health and Human Services	\$6,000,000	COVID-19
4/18/20	NE Comm. on Law Enf. and Criminal Justice	Coronavirus emergency supplemental funding	Department of Justice	\$4,337,801	COVID-19
5/4/20	Nebraska airports	Support operating, capital, and other COVID expenses	Federal Aviation Administration	\$64,600,000	COVID-19
5/27/20	State of Nebraska	Federal assistance at Governor Ricketts' discretion	United States Treasury	\$1,250,000,000	COVID-19
9/24/20	Nebraska Department of Transportation	Emergency assistance for federal roads	Department of Transportation	\$45,970,852	COVID-19
9/2/20	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	Protective anti-COVID measures	Federal Emergency Management Agency	\$62,490,887	COVID-19
5/4/20	Nebraska housing	Support operating, capital, and other COVID expenses	Dept. of Housing and Urban Develop.	\$16,000,000	COVID-19
4/3/20	Urban, rural, and tribal NE transit	Support operating, capital, and other COVID expenses	Federal Transit Administration	\$61,000,000	COVID-19
7/27/20	City of Lincoln/UNL NEXXT	Internet of Things grant	National Science Foundation	\$300,000	Metro (Omaha/Lincoln)
8/4/20	Heartland Family Services	Victim of crimes support	Department of Justice	\$499,999	Metro (Omaha/Lincoln)
9/30/20	Lincoln Asian Community and Cultural Center	Expanded citizenship services	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services	\$250,000	Metro (Omaha/Lincoln)
9/8/20	Omaha Peer Support Project	Community oriented policing services	Department of Justice	\$124,583	Metro (Omaha/Lincoln)
8/6/20	Omaha, NE	Bus services	Federal Transit Administration	\$13,558,991	Metro (Omaha/Lincoln)
2/24/20	University of Nebraska - Omaha	Establish Center of Excellence for counterterror research	Department of Homeland Security	\$36,000,000	Metro (Omaha/Lincoln)
9/10/20	Blair, Nebraska	Bypass construction	Department of Transportation	\$7,560,000	Rural Nebraska
6/2/20	Crawford, NE	Improved water system in city of Crawford	Department of Agriculture	\$596,500	Rural Nebraska
2/4/20	Gering-Fort Laramie Tunnel	Repairs following canal collapse	Bureau of Reclamation	\$2,300,000	Rural Nebraska
10/7/20	Jefferson County	Flood-resistant roadways	Department of Commerce	\$2,600,000	Rural Nebraska
1/17/20	Madison, Wayne, Pierce Counties	Rural broadband	Department of Agriculture	\$5,700,000	Rural Nebraska
4/16/20	Nature Conservancy's Nebraska project	Assistance for farmers adopting soil health practices	Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$4,419,304	Rural Nebraska
8/3/20	Nebraska State Patrol	Improved truck screening	Department of Transportation	\$1,280,000	Rural Nebraska
9/18/20	Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado Railway	Track improvements	Department of Transportation	\$4,500,000	Rural Nebraska
10/31/20	Rock County Telephone Co.	Reconnect grant for rural broadband	Department of Agriculture	\$3,100,000	Rural Nebraska
10/7/20	Valentine, NE	Stormwater infrastructure	Department of Commerce	\$1,900,000	Rural Nebraska
11/24/20	Tecumseh, NE	Utility infrastructure improvements	Department of Commerce	\$1,200,000	Rural Nebraska
1/13/20	Sac and Fox Nation	Improved transit services	Department of Transportation	\$250,000	Tribal
1/14/20	Winnebago Tribe	Mental health and substance abuse services	Department of Health and Human Services	\$376,732	Tribal